

PERSONALITY FEATURES AND THEIR CULTURAL INTERRELATIONSHIPS IN A GROUP OF CHINESE

BY

WILLIAM N. THETFORD, LEO GOLDBERGER, LAWRENCE E. HINKLE, JR. and
HAROLD G. WOLFF

(New York Hospital, Cornell Medical Center, New York, N.Y.)

This report is based on a psychological study of the personality characteristics of a group of one hundred Chinese professional men and women who came to the United States within the past ten years and have been unable to return to their homeland for various reasons. The particular research project, on which this paper is based, is an outgrowth of a larger interdisciplinary (psychiatry, medicine, cultural anthropology) research program in Human Health and the Ecology of Man at New York Hospital-Cornell Medical Center, which is concerned with the reactions of individuals to the demands of their environment.

A series of psychological tests was administered individually, including the Rorschach, Wechsler-Bellevue, Thurstone Temperament Scale, Sentence Completion, Projective Questionnaire, Mosaic, Figure Drawings and the Thematic Apperception Test. An analysis of all test findings revealed the following:

1. Interpretations derived from psychological tests are compatible with findings from other disciplines represented in this project.
2. The intellectual level for this group is comparable to that of an American population with the same educational background.
3. Problems are viewed holistically rather than in terms of separate components.
4. In problem solving and abstracting the Chinese show a greater emphasis on concrete, functional modes of thought, and a relative deemphasis on creative imagination and originality, as contrasted to Americans of similar intellectual and educational level.
5. Although behaviorally the Chinese in this group appear formal, well controlled and somewhat emotionally bland, the data reveal that they experience very intense feelings over which they exercise considerable control.
6. Cultural data suggest that those situations in which the expression of feeling is permissible and the ways in which they may be displayed are specifically delineated.
7. The psychological data reveal the presence of a strong passive attitude

and feeling state for this group. Dependency needs are accepted and indulged with little conflict.

3. A strong internalized system of moral values is relatively deemphasized in members of this group. Their behavior is conditioned more by the operation of external social actions.
9. A variety of constellations of defense were discerned. Three major types of character structure were found to account for most of the subjects: "the affectively-insulated", "the constricted", and "the overly-sensitive".
10. The personality types in this group differ from their American counterpart in internal patterning and emphasis.

DIFFERENCES IN PERSONALITY ADJUSTMENT AMONG DIFFERENT GENERATIONS OF AMERICAN JEWS AND NON-JEWS

BY

VICTOR D. SANUA

(*Harvard University, Cambridge, Mass.*)

The purpose of the study was to explore the psychological adjustment of the Jewish minority group in its acculturation in the U.S.A. Students were classified on the basis of their religious affiliation (Orthodox, Conservative or Reform), generation (first, second, mixed and third) and their socio-economic status. It is believed that past research was inconclusive because some of these factors were neglected. Furthermore previous studies did not make use of a projective test.

The Thurstone Personality Schedule and the Rorschach Multiple Choice Test were administered to 366 high school Jewish boys and girls in New York City. The control group was made up of long established Protestants. A questionnaire on Jewish identification was administered to the Jewish group.

Jewish boys born abroad had the poorest mean score on the Thurstone Personality Schedule. Their mean score on the Rorschach Multiple Choice Test was close to normal. Results in the opposite direction were obtained with the third generation Jewish group. They gave normal scores on the Personality Schedule but a very neurotic score on the Rorschach.

Jewish students whose mothers were Orthodox and born in the U.S.A.